

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An information processing method separates tone component information higher than a trial frequency band and quantization accuracy information and normalization coefficient information of non-tone components higher than the trial frequency band. The number of tone components and the number of quantization units are minimized (to zero), and the other data is arranged in an extended area that cannot be referred to by a known player. Trial time information is written in an area containing unreferenced spectral coefficient information, which may be replaced, where necessary, with dummy data. A player for playing trial data refers to the trial time information, selects a random portion(s) from a trial-permitted area(s), the total playback time being within the trial time, and rearranges data included in the extended area of each selected frame at a playable position, thus playing the trial data. The present invention is applicable to encoders, data players, and data recorders.